

16 AUG 1972

Arms Limit Treaty Gains in House

By DANA BULLEN
Star-News Staff Writer

The House moved today toward expected approval of a U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms limitation pact, but bickering and a charge that the Soviets "lied" at the Moscow summit clouded Senate action.

Two meetings of senators in Majority Leader Nike Mansfield's office failed to produce any agreement yesterday on when Senate votes will come. That could well mean action will be stalled on the arms agreement until after Labor Day.

Both the House and Senate will recess later this week until after Labor Day because of the Republican National Convention which begins next week in Miami Beach.

"To my best judgment, some senators are not ever going to be willing to vote on this," Senate GOP Leader Hugh Scott said. "We are knee-deep in intransigence right now."

In forwarding the arms pact to the House floor, the Rules Committee allowed one hour for debate today under a rule that permits amendments to be offered. It was not thought stiffening amendments such as have entangled the Senate would be offered, or, if they were, that they would succeed.

Overstating Progress

The charge the Soviets "lied" at the Moscow summit meeting in May was made by Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., sponsor of the main Senate amendment to the arms accord, upon leaving Mansfield's office after the attempt to schedule Senate votes collapsed.

Jackson accused the Soviets of misleading Nixon and affecting the terms of the agreement that was reached by overstating progress on the Soviet nuclear missile submarine program.

"They lied at Moscow. They told the President they had 48

submarines under construction or deployed," Jackson said. "We now know from intelligence sources they ... only had 42."

The five-year arms agreement signed by Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev permits the Soviet Union 62 missile submarines, compared to 44 for this country. The pact also freezes most other nuclear missile systems at present levels.

"Under Construction"

A critical factor in U.S. acceptance of the agreement was, a desire to put a brake on Soviet development work. Had the lower Soviet submarine number been disclosed, Jackson maintained, the 62-submarine limit for the Soviets might also have been reduced.

The White House had no comment on Jackson's charge, but it appeared there was U.S. awareness in Moscow that the Soviets were claiming they

had more missile submarines under construction than the U.S. side thought the Soviets had.

Henry A. Kissinger, Nixon's top security aide, told newsmen at the time that the Soviets considered a missile submarine to be "under construction" at an earlier point than the U.S. did.

The presidential aide said at the time that this might account for a discrepancy between the Soviet's claim they had 48 nuclear missile submarines while the U.S. assessment was that they only had 41 to 43.

Sen. J. William Fulbright chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said later that Jackson's "lie" charge, if true, was "serious." The Arkansas Democrat said on the Senate floor that he would ask the CIA about its validity.

'What's the Rush?'

But Fulbright, recalling "last minute" revelations in

past Senate arms debates, also told reporters: "I think unless the President confirms it, it (Jackson's claim) would be very suspect."